

PATTERSON DRIVING MICHIGAN TO THE FOREFRONT

Senate adopted Concurrent Resolution 14 seeking federal funding for fuel cell technology research

Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 14, authored and introduced by Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, unanimously passed the Michigan Senate today. SCR 14 urges President George W. Bush and the Congress of the United States to fund additional research projects in Michigan to advance fuel cell technology.

As the chair of the Senate Technology and Energy Committee, Senator Patterson identified fuel cell technology early on as a priority for Michigan. Through his innovation and diligence, Patterson is working to lead the nation's technology into a new age with Michigan as its leader. Fuel cells have the potential to one day be the primary fuel of choice, and Michigan can be the leader in advancing the nation towards this technology. With the President of the United States identifying fuel cell technology as a priority of the nation, the time is now for Congress to choose Michigan as its vehicle as we drive into a new era. Patterson is optimistic that we will receive the funding we are requested from the federal government. Let's keep Michigan as the engine that drives America. Bringing this industry to Michigan is a win-win situation. It's environmentally friendly, and economically prosperous. If Michigan receives the funding, more business would enter the state. More business means high-paying, quality manufacturing jobs for Michigan families.

The concurrent resolution was unanimously passed by the Senate and will now go to the House for consideration next week.

PATTERSON: MOMENTUM GAINS TO ERADICATE EMERALD ASH BORER

Senate adopts Senate Resolution 49 Seeking Federal Assistance in Dealing with Emerald Ash Borer

Senate Resolution (SR) 49, authored and introduced by Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, unanimously passed the Senate today. SR 49 is a resolution urging the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to provide assistance in the effort to deal with the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer, Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, announced. The 7th district, which Senator Patterson represents, is one of the communities that has been hit the hardest by the beetle. This beetle is destroying our ash trees at a rapid rate. We need to move quickly to protect as many trees as possible. Michigan Senators share in Patterson's concern and are in full support of the resolution. Now it's time for Congress to take action. We need the technical and financial assistance from Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture in order to accomplish this goal.

The Emerald Ash Borer, an aggressive Asian insect, is rapidly threatening virtually all of the ash trees in Michigan. There are as many as a billion ash trees in the state. Six southeastern Michigan counties, including Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne, have been quarantined. The beetle has killed 5 million of the 28 million ash trees in the quarantined area. The quarantine on all ash trees and ash wood products, including firewood, is in effect in all 6 affected counties to prevent and control its spread. Under the quarantine, it is illegal to move ash trees, branches, lumber, firewood, and wood chips larger than one inch in diameter outside the six counties. The Emerald Ash Borer belongs to a group of insects known as metallic wood-boring beetles. Adults are dark metallic green in color and ½ inch in length and 1/6 inch wide, and are only present from mid May until late July. Larvae are creamy white in color and are found under the bark. Usually their presence goes undetected until the trees show symptoms of infestation. The first sign is typically a display of the upper third of a tree dying back first, followed by the rest the next year.

MAYBURY FARM REBUILDING

This past Saturday Maybury Park held an open forum pertaining to the burning of their barn. Approximately 120 residents were in attendance in Genetti's Little Theater. The forum lasted approximately 2 hours and displayed the community's concern and care over the burning of barn in February. K.L. Cool, director of the state Department of Natural Resources, visited along with leaders from local organizations, members of the DNR staff, and elected officials. Establishing a funding

method is still a concern, however, local non-profit organizations along with state officials and departments are working together on restoring the facilities. Please contact Patterson's office if you'd like more information on how you can make a donation or if you wish for more information.

SENATE SAVES K-12 EDUCATION OPERATIONAL FUNDING

The Senate is making steadfast progress in cutting administrative costs for K 12 education by passing two bills giving local school districts flexibility in their operating budgets. This week legislation was sent to the House that streamlines the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) and allows individual districts to decide if they desire to eliminate professional development requirements. Currently, data submitted by schools is submitted to CEPI and numerous other state agencies. Senate Bill 365 requires that all data submissions will be made directly to CEPI. Senate Bill 366 allows each individual school district to decide if they want to eliminate teacher development requirements. The Senate Fiscal Agency has reported that districts could save between \$35 and \$40 million alone by not having to pay substitute teacher costs while day to day teachers are out of the classroom.

LEGAL BIRTH BILL PASSES SENATE

Legislation seeking to protect infants by clearly establishing the point at which they become legally protected individuals passed the Senate this week. Senate Bill 395 establishes that legal birth, when legal personhood and rights commence for a human being, is at the point at which any part of the live child has been delivered outside their mother's body. In Roe v. Wade and the legal decisions that follow it, the Supreme Court established that a fully born child is afforded full constitutional rights, and that child within her mother is not a legally protected person. In the majority opinion of Roe v. Wade and subsequent decisions, the Supreme Court never defined "unborn;" nor did it bar the states from defining "born." Senate Bill 395 clarifies this ambiguity, establishing a bright line between when pregnancy ends and birth begins. The bill is headed to the House for consideration.

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT INTRODUCED

Legislation ensuring that the expansion of Michigan's charter schools are consistently overseen and provide steadfast accountability was introduced in the Senate this week. The provisions guarantee numerous guidelines that will ensure proper management of the proposed 300 charter schools and 50 charter high schools. Among those provisions are: subjecting the schools to the general supervision and leadership of the State Board of Education, filing copies of the charter contract with the Michigan Department of Education, making available for public inspection their annual budgets, budget amendments and quarterly financial statements, complying with state and federal special education requirements and mandating the education management companies to provide the school's governing board with detailed information regarding teachers, administrators and support staff assigned to work at the school. The legislation awaits consideration in the Senate Education Committee.

RECYCLING TASK FORCE UNDER THE BARK. USUALLY AND BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT MEETINGS APRIL 28

The Michigan Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force and the Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness will conduct hearings April 28 in Saginaw and Macomb County, respectively. The Recycling Task Force is responsible for reviewing Michigan's current recycling program and Beverage Container Law while the business competitiveness committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Legislature on how the state can create more good paying jobs for Michigan families and increase Michigan's business climate. The Saginaw hearing will be conducted at the Recital Hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University from 7 9 p.m. and the business competitiveness hearing will take place at the John R. Dimitry Student Community Center on the campus of Macomb Community College, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

ASSISTANCE FOR LINEAR TRAIL MAINTENANCE SOLICITED

State recreation officials recently announced they are recruiting assistance to help maintain the five State Park Linear Trails, which constitute 174 miles of former railroad right of way now serving as Linear Trails throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Unlike state parks, the linear trails are not supported by fees collected from Motor Vehicle Permits or camping fees. In light of continued budget strain and

personnel shortages at other state parks following last year's round of early retirements, Department of Natural Resources Park's and Recreation Bureau officials are seeking volunteer assistance to work with DNR staff to help maintain the trails. Picking up litter, clearing small limbs, raising funds to maintain vault toilets and replacing washouts are among the tasks groups and individuals will be asked to perform. Interested parties are asked to contact the Parks and Recreation Bureau for information on locations of linear trails and how they may lend support at (517) 373 9900.

MICHIGAN FINANCIAL FOCUS AVAILABLE

Information on State of Michigan spending, revenue and other financial information is now available in the Michigan Financial Focus. The report, prepared by the Michigan Office of Financial Management, is written in non technical language to provide residents with a clear picture of how state resources are being utilized. Legislative phone numbers, State agency phone numbers and web addresses to provide residents with easier access to state government will also be printed in the report. Copies of the Michigan Financial Focus will be available in Secretary of State Offices, State parks, public libraries and human services offices. The report may also be viewed online at <http://www.michigan.gov/budget>, under the "Financial Reports" link.

CONCERNED ABOUT A PIECE OF LEGISLATION OR AN ISSUE? WRITE YOUR PAPER!

If you are interested in sharing your views on any issues, pieces of legislation or a personal topic of interest with your community, please contact Senator Patterson's office at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov for more information.

LOCALS VISIT LANSING

Carol Saunders, member of the Plymouth-Canton school board - testified before the K-12 Subcommittee
Marcy Staley, member of the Plymouth-Canton school board - testified before the K-12 Subcommittee
Paul Schrauben and Sarah Schrauben - visitors from Canton
Mark Abbo - Vice President, Controller and Treasurer, STM Power, Northville resident - testified before the Senate Technology and Energy Committee
Pete Glaab, Jr. - President, Document Imaging and Technology Solutions, Inc. - testified before the Senate Technology and Energy Committee

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or one of my staff members.

Thank you for your continued interest in the legislative activities of the Michigan Senate. Again, should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

**Bruce Patterson
State Senator - 7th District**